

Summary - complete to 69

422

~~SECRET~~

4 JAN 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Assistant Secretary for Security
Department of State
FROM: Deputy Director for Plans
SUBJECT: Dr. Armand Stepanovich

1. For verbal request of Dr. Stepanovich of the
Department of State, the following information is provided
on Dr. Stepanovich's activities in the United States and
based on the information contained in the files of the
State. This information is provided for your interest.

Activities in the United States

Armand Stepanovich was born in 1912 in the
USSR. He is a graduate of the Moscow State University
and has a Ph.D. in Physics. He has been in the United States
since 1955.

Dr. Stepanovich is currently employed by the
Department of State as a Senior Research Fellow.
He is also a member of the American Physical Society.

Dr. Stepanovich has been active in the field of
nuclear energy and has published several papers on this
subject. He is also a member of the International Atomic
Energy Commission.

Dr. Stepanovich has been in contact with several
other scientists in the field of nuclear energy and has
participated in several international conferences on this
subject.

~~SECRET~~



Approved for Release
Date FEB 1968

BEST COPY
AVAILABLE

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE: METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2006

SECRET

Following the graduation from the seminary he was ordained a Priest and served in Sarajevo from 1930 to 1932. During this period he came in direct contact with Dr. Ivan SARIC, the Catholic Archbishop of Bosnia, perhaps the most rabid opponent of the Orthodox Serbs and the Yugoslav Royal family (the KARADJORDJEVIC Family), which is of Serbian origin, and a vociferous champion of the Independent State of Greater Croatia (which would include all of Croatia, Dalmatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Drina River in the East, and also Slavonia and Srem, i.e. the lands North of the Sava River and South of the Danube River right up to the confluence of the Sava with the Danube at Belgrade). It was under the auspices of Archbishop SARIC that he was sent to Rome in 1932 to attend the Instituto Orientale Pontificio where he majored in ecclesiology and Balkan affairs. He obtained his Doctorate in 1935 and returned to Sarajevo, where he acted as secretary to Archbishop SARIC from 1935 through 1940. In February 1941 he was appointed teacher of Ecclesiastical History at the University of Zagreb, Croatia.

2. Activities from April 1941 to Mid-1945:

There are conflicting reports regarding Subject's activities during the period from April 1941 to August 1943. According to some reports, shortly after the Independent State of Croatia was established in April 1941 by the late Ante PAVELIC, the leader of the Ustasha (a Croatian political organization), with the support and approval of Nazi Germany, Subject became a leading figure in the Office for Colonization, an office engaged in confiscating the property of the Orthodox Serbs living in Bosnia, Herzegovina, the Lika area of Croatia (in which lived the majority of the Serbian minority of Croatia), Slavonia and Srem, and distributing said property to the Ustasas. Subject reportedly was in the habit of traveling in the above listed areas in the uniform of an Ustasha Colonel. He was also said to have been armed while in uniform. Other reports identify Subject as a member of a Committee that forcibly converted thousands of Serbians from the Serbian Orthodox to the Roman Catholic Church.

SECRET

SECRET

He continued to represent the Croatian Red Cross, but was also regarded as an unofficial chargé d'affairs of the Croatian State at the Vatican. Thus when the Croatian State collapsed, he was in the ideal position to help the many Ustasas who fled Yugoslavia, and as Secretary of an organization known as the Confraternita Croata in Italy he issued identity documents with false names to many Croats, primarily Ustasas who were considered war criminals, and is the individual most responsible for making it possible for the Ustasas to emigrate overseas, primarily to Argentina, but also to Chile, Venezuela, Australia, Canada and even the United States. He is alleged to have provided even some German Nazi war criminals with false identity cards with false Croatian names, thus enabling them to emigrate from Europe and avoid standing trial in Germany for their wartime activities. Subject and his Croatian supporters claim that Subject assisted Serbs, Slovenes and other Yugoslavs as well as Croats, and say that he has been motivated by any but charitable and compassionate reasons in this activity.

C. Activities from mid-1945 to Date:

Subject's activities in Rome were conducted from the Ecclesiastical College of San Cirillo, Via Cirillo, 152, Via Cirillo, Rome. The college is sponsored by the Vatican and was used by young Italian Catholic priests as their home in Rome while pursuing various courses of study. It also became the sponsor of the San Cirillo Asylum for the Ustasas and other Croat emigres in Rome. Rector of the College of San Cirillo until 1945 at the time was Monsignor Dr. Juraj KALUZHIC, a close collaborator of Subject's in his activities on behalf of the Croats.

In 1946, Subject defended himself on the charges that he was an Ustasha by stating that if working for an independent Croatia meant being an Ustasha, then "I am an Ustasha. However," he added, "I disassociate myself from all other attributes of the Ustasas." He is also known to have defended the late Ante PAVLIC on the grounds that PAVLIC organized

the Ustasha Movement in 1929 (this is after the assassination of Stjepan RADIC, leader of the Croatian Peasant Party, in the Yugoslav Parliament by a Montenegrin, i.e. Serbian Deputy), as a Grant answer to the Serbian Chetnik Movement, which Subject claims and soon an instrument of Serbian oppression of the Croats. He also admits that he is a proponent of an Independent Greater Croatian State and that he supports the Pan-Usanbian Federation composed of Slovenia, Croatia, Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland (sometimes referred to as a "Cordon Sanitario" between Western Europe and the Soviet Union, or even as the Catholic outpost confronting the Godless Communists and the heretic Orthodox States.) And finally, Subject has claimed credit for helping in the release of over 12,000 Yugoslav internees in Italy during 1943, 1944 and early 1945.

In 1949, Subject went to Argentina in the company of the late Ante PAVLIC, but he returned to home shortly thereafter. In 1950 he was known to be using a Diplomatic Passport issued to him by the Vatican. In June 1951 he went to Beirut, Lebanon on orders of Ante PAVLIC in an effort to convince Djafar AULADORIC to accept the post of President of the Ustasha Government in exile, which was constituted in London at about April 1951 (the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Independent Greater Croatian State in 1941 on 10 April 1941) Sometime in the 1950's he had a liaison with PAVLIC and attempted to establish working relations with the late Vlasto RACI, who had replaced the leadership of the Croatian Peasant Party after the assassination of Stjepan RADIC, and was assisted by RACI in 1950 in their organized a movement called the Croatian Independent Movement, which was intended to assemble all Croats outside Yugoslavia, while in cooperation both to the followers of the PAVLIC Ustasha Movement and the Croatian Peasant Party of Vlasto RACI. This new movement appeared to be only a faction of the Croats, but, as an individual, Subject nevertheless continues to enjoy a position of some importance among the Croats outside Yugoslavia.

SECRET

- 6 -

Finally, in 1952 Subject became Secretary of the "Bratovstina Relief Association" with Headquarters in Rome. His close associate, Monsignor Dr. Juraj NADJANEC, with whom he organized the Association, became president.

Subject's political activities eventually became an embarrassment to the Vatican, and in October 1958, Monsignor Djuro KUNSA, Vice Director of the College of San Giovanni, asked him to leave the College, on order of the Secretary of State of the Vatican. He then moved to an apartment at 28 Via Solaria, Rome. In time he moved from Italy to Vienna, Austria, and became an Austrian citizen, and it was while living in Austria that he visited Trieste, from where he disappeared around mid-September 1967, leading the Trieste to conclude that he had been kidnapped by the Yugoslavs and forcibly taken back to Yugoslavia. Throughout the post-war period the Yugoslav government has labeled Subject a war criminal and has repeatedly requested the Italian and Austrian authorities that Subject be extradited to Yugoslavia so that he could be tried for his war crime activities.

D. Intelligence Activities

Subject has been accused of working for the Soviet Intelligence Service. For one his friends have disclaimed such activity, and claim that he is being slandered by the Serbs and by the communist regime in Yugoslavia in order to discredit him and hamper his humanitarian work. There is no proof that he has ever worked for the Soviet or any communist intelligence service. There are, however, indications that he had worked for the Intelligence Service of the Ministry of Defense of the Soviet Union for some time.

Subject also had contact with the United States Military Intelligence during the 1950's and early 1960's, but this association was terminated by the Military Intelligence in January 1962. (If you require additional details of this association, please address your inquiry to the Department of the Army.)

